# Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation
# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
**September 11, 2025 5:00 P.M.**

The Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation Board of Directors convened Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Lexington District One Central Services Auditorium.

**Board members:** Chair Bridget Winston, Beth Ancone, Katrina Bryant, Brent Clark, Harriet Coker, Randy Cooper, Brandi Keefer, Lindsey Miles, Lisa Phillips, Will Salley, Chris Shealy, Dr. Scarlet Taylor, and Jennifer White

*Absent: Laura Amick, Julie Bartels, Michael Boone, Angela Douda, LaMyron Jenkins, Jackie Kaminer, Missy Moore, Nicholas Pizzuti, Libby Roof, Rebecca West, and Michelle White.*

**Call to Order** – Board Chair Bridget Winston called the meeting to order and welcomed new board members Laura Amick, Beth Ancone, Brent Clark, Lindsey Miles, and Chris Shealy. She also shared the 2025-26 LEAP video with everyone.

**1.0 Minutes** – June 12, 2025 Board meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

| Motion | Second | Action |
|---|---|---|
| Coker | Keefer | Approved Unanimously |

**2.0 Committee Reports**

**2.1 Governance – Missy Moore, Committee Chair - Lisa Phillips presented in Missy's absence**

**2.1.1 Board Committees & Roster 2025-2026 –** Mrs. Phillips asked all members to review the roster to be sure their personal information is still accurate.

**2.1.2 Foundation Meetings Schedule 2025-2026** – She also asked everyone to note our foundation meeting dates on personal and professional calendars. She noted all should have received a foundation board member ID, too, in the mail.

**2.2 Finance Committee – Randy Cooper, Committee Chair**

**2.2.1 Financial Report – 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2024-2025** –Mr. Cooper reviewed final, year-end numbers that reflected $1,879,465.05. There is $88,000 in checking account and all else is invested. The foundation has no liabilities. At year's end, revenue was shifted from a number of fundraising-focused funds into the general fund. The staff will continue to do this at the end of the fiscal year.

Accordingly, at the end of June the total fund balance was more than $1.9 million. The total of unrestricted funds was more than $800,000. Unrestricted revenue was more than $200,000, while restricted revenue totaled more than $313,000. Expenditures totaled $369,000 for operational costs, educational and need-based grants, and scholarships. We have three full-time positions this year.

**2.2.2 Investments & LPL Financial Report 4th Quarter (June 30, 2025) –** Mr. Cooper shared our investments report for the fourth quarter, which reflected ending with $1,608,118.

The foundation's fundraisers continue to be important in providing operational costs, since the district does want the foundation to take on more of these expenses gradually per the annual MOU.

**2.3 Allocations —Katrina Bryant, Committee Chair**

**2.3.1 Bucks for Books Grants 2025-2026** – The Allocations Committee met August 18th to consider a number of grant requests. First, the foundation will continue to support and strengthen literacy efforts in Lexington District One via these grants. This year's proposal is to fund approximately $100 in books per teacher in Kindergarten- 2nd Grade classrooms in all 18 elementary schools and to have the books align with the social studies and science curriculum.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mrs. Bryant moved to fund $27,700 in Bucks for Books Grants this school year to support literacy efforts, which will be divided as requested among each of the 18 Lexington One elementary schools to provide social studies and science books for every Kindergarten- 2nd grade teachers' classroom.

| Motion | Action |
|---|---|
| Bryant/Cmte. | Approved Unanimously |

**2.3.2 Innovation Grants to K-8 Schools 2025-2026** – These grants enhance learning in elementary and middle schools. Mrs. Bryant discussed the required 10% school match and Ms. Washburn explained this match has not been a problem in the past for school leaders.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mrs. Bryant moved to fund $25,000 in Innovation Grants for K-8 Schools, or $5,000 per school award, for the 2025-2026 year.

| Motion | Action |
|---|---|
| Bryant/Cmte. | Approved Unanimously |

**2.3.3 International Teacher Grants 2025-2026** – Mrs. Bryant shared that these grants aid the district's new international teachers, who are among the newest educators in Lexington One. They fund breakfast and lunch for the first 60 days of school and grant assistance with rent and food. The Lexington One HR Team utilized an approved rubric to better vet need, which thus far has resulted in nine teacher grant requests. These grants are important in recruitment and retention.

In the June board meeting the approved these grants for the 2025-2026 school year. Therefore, this is an update regarding grant utilization. Each grant totals $1,111.80 per approved international teacher, which equals $511.80 for school meals for 60 days; $200 in grant support for groceries; and a $400 grant for rent or utilities. These teachers fills unmet gaps in our district each year.

**2.3.4 Health Fund Grants FY 2024-2025 Report & Update** – An update was given in regards to the previous approved grant for Lexington One's Student Services. Director of Nursing and Health Services Amy Wood did purchase digital thermometers; however, Mrs. Wood is still trying to work with vendors to purchase albuterol and disposal chambers for Lexington One school nursing teams.

Last school year three families serious financial constraints received Health Fund Grants to help with health battles associated with Cimex lectularius. Mrs. Bryant was given the floor to explain the need-based program briefly to newly installed board members. The foundation only assists the families; the district must financially handle any building concerns.

**2.3.5 Higher Education Support Grants Report** – These grants assist Lexington One seniors with significant financial need by helping to furnish their dorm rooms and/or provide academic grants for a total of $1,000 grant per award. A total of 17 grants of $1,000 each were approved for qualifying seniors who were from four of the five district high schools. Some students did not qualify and others did not receive the grant due to lack of completion of the required documents. The report illustrated the many ways the grants were expended to support our students' needs with tuition assistance and desk/school supplies being the top need, followed by bedding, storage containers, and hygiene products. Six students used all of the grant towards purchase of laptop and others used the second half of the grant award to help

with college costs.

Mrs. Bryant moved to fund $25,000 for 25 Higher Education Support Grants for the 2025-2026 school year, which would provide $1,000 per Lexington One senior who applies and qualifies based on the predetermined, need-based criteria that is listed in the grant application.

| Motion | Second | Action |
|---|---|---|
| Bryant | Phillips | Approved Unanimously |

**2.3.6 LEAP- Lexington Emergency Assistance Plan FY2024-2025 Report** – Mrs. Bryant presented final numbers for the Lexington One families who applied for and received LEAP Emergency Grant Assistance. Application numbers resulted in the foundation helping 20 families for a total of reach of 87 individuals and $42,274 in grant funds awarded. Staff provided guidance, noting a tremendous outreach effort to a volume of 77 inquiries regarding LEAP Emergency program. Some family inquiries were helped in other ways, like Helping Hands Grant assistance. Mrs. Washburn briefly explained the program, referral process, and implementation to newly installed board members.

Foundation staff continue to work hard to connect with families in need with the help of our 100+ LEAP volunteer representatives, review committee members, school counselors, social workers, teachers, and administrators who refer families to the foundation for this need-based grant assistance.

**2.3.7 Helping Hands Grants -** Board Chair Mrs. Winston added an item to the agenda - the Helping Hand Grant report. These grants have allowed school leaders to assist families in need quickly with smaller aid. The Executive Committee recently approved $45,787.77 spending plan for each designated school for the 2025-2026 school year. The goal of this grant is to enable schools to quickly address vetted student needs that fall outside the LEAP Emergency guidelines. This year's proposed grant total was calculated by taking the number of students in poverty, multiplying it by $5.00, and subtracting the school's HHG fund balance.

On behalf of the executive committee, Ms. Winston moved to fund $45,787.77 in Helping Hands Grants to Schools as allocated on the proposed chart to assist students and families in need in smaller ways with emergency requests in Lexington District One.

| Motion | Action |
|---|---|
| Winston/Cmte. | Approved Unanimously |

**2.4 Philanthropic Partnerships — Angie Douda, Committee Chair - Brandi Keefer presented in Angie's absence**

**2.4.1 Anniversary Recognition-** The Lexington One Educational Foundation will be honored at the Lexington One School Board Meeting on October 21, 2025, at the NLCLC theatre, in recognition of its 30 years of contributions and celebrations. Mrs. Keefer strongly encouraged board members to attend to participate in this recognition.

**2.4.2 Fore the Foundation Grand Golf Tournament** – Mrs. Keefer encouraged and challenged each board member to work hard on securing at least three sponsors and one team for the upcoming golf tournament that is October 23, 2025. The Philanthropic Partnerships Committee recently met to discuss the event. The tournament's purpose is to raise funds via sponsorships and golf team registrations. Accordingly, she stressed the importance of having all board members involved in our fundraising efforts. Kudos were given for select board members who had already stepped up to help. Volunteers will be needed that day, too. Sponsor suggestions or connections should be directed to Mrs. Washburn. It was noted that $26,800 has been raised to date and 13 teams are registered to play.

**2.4.3 Back to School Administrator's Breakfast Report** – This year's breakfast was a success in kicking off the new school year. We had 7 generous sponsors and most all administrators attended, as well as sponsors and a few board members. Eggs Up Grill catered the breakfast and was a sponsor. Board Chair, Mrs.

Winston gave a presentation detailing some of the foundation's many investments in Lexington One this past year.

**2.4.4 LEAP Annual Campaign 2025-2026 Update** – LEAP (Lexington Emergency/Education Assistance Plan) training was held on July 22nd and there was a great turnout. The LEAP volunteers promote the LEAP Annual Campaign for the first 3 weeks of school and then shift their focus to serve as emergency grant assistance volunteers. The staff created posters, flyers, social media images, and a video to promote the LEAP campaign. This year's campaign theme is "Granting Wishes and Support in Lexington District One." Employees are able to donate to these foundation funds via cash, check, or payroll deduction. This year's pledge forms specify that 20% of contributions will be dedicated to operational costs for grants administrations, as recommended by the auditor.

The official LEAP Campaign numbers for this school year will be shared as soon as they are confirmed. Awards will also be given to the top schools in the coming months.

**2.4.5 Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants – Fall 2025 Awards** – Sixteen awards of up to $500 each were made to teachers from 11 different schools. The teachers received grants for 2025-26 school year that total $7,480.86 (funds leftover from last year, since the annual gift is $5,000). A total of 2,200 students will benefit from these educational projects. We are so thankful to Michelin for continuing to provide such important grant funding to support our teachers and their students!

**3.0 Executive Director Report — Mrs. Julie Washburn**

Mrs. Washburn discussed the health challenges of foundation staff member, Heather Johnson, being on medical leave. Accordingly, we are actively seeking another part-time staff member to cover a couple of days a week to assist in the short-term.

Golf tournament sponsors, teams, and volunteers are needed for the upcoming event. She finished by emphasizing the importance of sharing our social media posts with others to increase visibility and noted that examples of our media coverage and posts were included in the board meeting packet, as well as words of appreciation from grant recipients.

**4.0 Adjournment**

Chair Mrs. Winston commended everyone for their continued commitment to the Educational Foundation and the efforts to improve the lives of students, teachers and staff in Lexington School District One. She then asked for any additional questions or discussion. Upon receiving no comments, Mrs. Winston made the executive decision to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mr. Randy Cooper
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Prepared By:

Heather Johnson
Executive Secretary